

DECEMBER 2022
GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

"Celebrating 150 years of Faith, Hope, and Love"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Oakland is beautifully decorated for Advent. The shops are decked out with the signs of Christmas lights, trees, and Christmas stuff. Yes, it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the village, in our churches, in our homes, all around us are the tell tale signs of the Christmas Season.

When I was a young boy growing up in Lakeview, one of the highlights of the time was going around the community and town to see the Christmas lights. What a treat this was! And another event that was special was the Christmas program at the little church I grew up in and attended as a boy. The adults always made sure all had a sack with fruits, candies, gum, and raisins. And oh, yes, nuts of all kinds. Then there was always a Christmas pageant where I would be one of the kings and sing "We Three Kings". I could sing as loud as I wanted. As a boy I could get by doing this, now, I step back from the mic when I sing.

So much about Christmas lingers in our memories that forever will be a part of us. And when the signs of Christmas begin to happen all around us, so do our memories arise from their resting place in our hearts and minds. Like a fire that once more can blaze up from a smothering coal, our memories of a Christmas past burns brightly with us. I suppose that is why we keep doing so many of the same things each year so we will not forget. Even when our memories are mingled with hints of sadness, the season itself beckons us to joyful moments and gladness.

This Christmas indeed is mingled with sadness for many in our country, our world, and those of whom we know in our communities who are going through degrees of sadness because of illness, separation from loved ones, loss of friends, a beloved pet, a child, a mother, a father, a sister, brother, or relative. Maybe even more so than other Christmas times, the season shouts louder, calling us to joyful moments and gladness.

At Christmas, we are reminded that Jesus came into a world full of sadness, and yet the heavens shone brightly, the angels sang, shepherds bowed, kings brought gifts, a mother and father smiled at their Son in a humble birth place, and the joy of a baby's cry was heard. We are reminded that no amount of sadness, darkness, can overcome the joy and the light brought to us in that humble birth place so many seasons ago.

To all of you whom we love, our families, our friends, our church family, wherever you are, Peggy and I send you our prayers that the joy and light of Christmas will be greater than any sadness in your life. Even when in our lives sadness happens, the memory of all you and the Joy and Light you have brought to our lives enables us to sing with the angels, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come".

Peace, Joy, and Merry, Merry Christmas!

Eddie and Peggy



Music Corner

We have a celebrity among us!

Pat Branche won recognition from Home Instead for her service to those she has served for more than a decade. Pat was named "Care Pro of the Year"

Pat was featured in the Suffolk News Herald last week for her dedicated service.

We love you Pat and are so proud of you!



Helena Burgess	2	Margaret Tolly	13
Rob Rhodes	3	Mary Ann Riddick	13
Sonora Curliss	4	Bob Creely	14
Jean Jordan	6	Jack Brennecke	14
Kendal Burgess	7	John Gayle	15
Barbara Nelms	10	Sharon Ingold	21
Anne Hodgson	11	Kyle Arcand	30
Bill Csisar	12		

If we missed posting your birthday or have the date incorrect, please let the office know. 255-4353





All Church Christmas Party

Celebrate Christmas with your church family

Food, fun, and fellowship with games and carol singing

Friday, December 2nd

6:30 pm to 8 pm



Poinsettias

Help decorate the church. Purchase a poinsettia in memory of or honor of a loved one.

Call the office or fill out the form found in your Sunday Bulletin. \$11 each.

You can take the poinsettia home after the Christmas Day service.

Deadline to order: Sunday, December 11th.



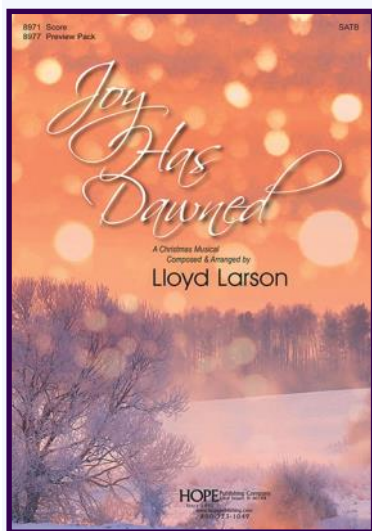
Covered Dish and Advent Activity

Sunday, December 11th

Following worship

Church will provide fried chicken

Please bring a potluck dish to share



Oakland's Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18th, 11am Worship Service

Joy Has Dawned

By: Oakland Chancel Choir

Caroling of the Bells

By: Oakland's Handbell Choir

Directed by: Paul Putnum

Reception immediately following the Cantata - please drop off some of your favorite sweets to share. You can drop them off to the kitchen anytime that week through Sunday morning and the Hospitality Committee will put them out.



Oakland's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday Night, December 24th @ 9 pm

Dear Members of Oakland,

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the Reverend Jason Stump has accepted the call to become the next Pastor at Oakland. Following a sixteen-month search, the Search Committee recommended, and the Church Conference voted this past Sunday to extend the offer to Reverend Stump. For those of you who may not know him personally, Reverend Stump is a graduate of Norwich University and has a Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership from Lancaster Theological Seminary. He is currently serving as Pastor of Zion Blue Mountain UCC Church in Pennsylvania. Prior to going in the seminary, many of you may remember his time at Oakland, where he served as the Director of Christian Education. We are excited to have Jason return to Oakland and look forward to welcoming Jason and his daughter Kathleen back to Chuckatuck. Reverend Stump will be living in the Parsonage and should be arriving early February.

On behalf of the Conference, I would like to offer the Search Committee our gratitude for serving so diligently through this process. Please join me recognizing the members of the committee, Co-chairs Dani Howell and Rob Rhodes, with members Suzanne Langston, Clare Mitchell, Robert Fly, Mary Ann Riddick, Carole Matt, and Jesse Burgess. I would like to thank the congregation for their patience, prayers, and support during this search as well as the Reverend Dr. Eddie Walker for his service as Interim Pastor.

Ralph L Howell, Jr
Moderator





We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, where we all thanked God for His bountiful blessings.

Now we want to THANK YOU for your wonderful support of our recent Stewardship campaign!

If you missed Commitment Sunday, you can still turn in your pledge envelope to the office, or put it in the collection plate any Sunday.

To date, we have received pledges from 40 members/families. This includes 29 who pledged a specific amount, for a total of \$175,335. An additional 11 committed to give what they could, when they could.

The wheels on the Oakland Stewardship Bus will continue to go 'round and 'round, enabling us to not only pay our bills, but to also continue doing the Lord's work by reaching out to our community and helping those in need.

Y'all are the BEST!!!

Stewardship hosted a thank-you lunch for everyone's faithfulness and it was certainly something different from our usual covered dish lunches! There was a potato bar, salad bar, and most importantly and ice cream bar!





~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 pm

Anna's Ristorante

1810 S. Church Street

Smithfield, VA

All are welcome please join us!

If you have any questions please contact:



JEWELS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sisters in Christ

Tuesday, December, 13th

6pm @ Smithfield Inn

112 Main Street

Deadline to sign up for dinner is
Sunday, Dec. 4th.

Gift Exchange: If you would like to
participate, bring a wrapped gift, maximum
\$20

~~~~~ **Church Directory** ~~~~~ Looking for a phone number or address of a church member? The Church Directory is on line and can be accessed from your personal computer. And there is an app that you can put on your smart phone to easily use as a contact list. Don't have a Personal Computer or Smart Phone? No worries.... call or stop by the office and Connie will print an up-to-date directory for you.

On behalf of your church ministerial staff, we would like to pause in order to communicate how truly grateful we have been to serve you and the families of Oakland Christian UCC this past year. We have shared so many elements of life together and look forward to continuing to do so as we seek God's face and His favor in the coming year. We pray that you enjoy a wonderful holiday and that you will experience a fresh expression of the love of Christ this Christmas season!

Your Staff,

Pastor Eddie, Connie, Paul, Janice, Kimmy and Anne Barden



JOIN US ON LIFE'S  
JOURNEY

CELEBRATING 150  
YEARS

OUR ROOTS ARE  
PLANTED FIRMLY  
ON FAITH, HOPE,  
AND LOVE

Est. 1872

We Welcome You

If you believe that God is calling you to be a member of this congregation, please let us know with a call to our church office. We can help you join by baptism or profession of faith, as a transfer, or by reinstatement.

*It would be wonderful to have you in our Church Family!*

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

*To share* God's love with all people,  
*To serve* the Lord with humility and kindness,  
*To grow* with the Lord in wisdom and strength.

Oakland Christian United Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 2008  
Suffolk, VA 23432

December 2022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Eddie Walker  
**Minister of Music:** Paul E. Putnam  
**Secretary & Newsletter Editor:** Connie Edwards  
**Financial Secretary:** Janice Roberts  
**Nursery Attendant:** Kimberly Curliss

Telephone: (757) 255-4353

Office Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: [Office@OaklandUCC.com](mailto:Office@OaklandUCC.com)



Website:  
[www.OaklandUCC.org](http://www.OaklandUCC.org)